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MEDICAL LIBRARY

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DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT DEDICATION OF COUNTWAY LIBRARY

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine, was among the principal speakers at the dedication of the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine at the Harvard Medical School on May 27.

The title of Dr. Cummings' talk was "The Edge of Husbandry: the Role of the National Library of Medicine." Dr. Cummings enumerated certain principles of library practice which he believes are fundamental to modern communications in the health sciences. He recalled the prescience of John Shaw Billings and Oliver Wendell Holmes in recognizing that the organization and dissemination of books and journals are indispensable to the advancement of medicine.

The Countway Library is the largest university-affiliated medical library in the nation, comprising the combined resources of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library. With the development of its extensive program of extramural services, the Countway Library will become an important regional reservoir library for a large geographic area.

MLA/NLM LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA

The MLA/NLM Liaison Committee held its second meeting in Philadelphia on May 29. Members present were: Mr. Alfred N. Brandon, Chairman, and President-Elect of the MLA; Mr. Alderson Fry, Medical Center Library, West Virginia University; Mrs. Jane Fulcher, Washington Hospital Center; Mr. Roy Kidman, Biomedical Library, University of California at San Diego; Mrs. Mildred C. Langner, University of Miami School of Medicine Library; Miss Mary M. Post, Ramsey County Medical Society Library; and Dr. Estelle Brodman, ex officio, President of the Medical Library Association.

NLM participants were Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director; Mrs. Maxine Hanke, Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Extramural Programs;

Mr. Samuel Lazerow, Chief, Technical Services Division; Miss Emilie V. Wiggins, Head, Cataloging Section, TSD; and Mr. Irving Weiss, Systems Analyst.

The Committee approved, with minor changes, a questionnaire concerning the acquisition and cataloging express service to be inaugurated by the National Library of Medicine in January 1966, and recommended to the MLA Board of Directors that the questionnaire be mailed to all members. The Committee heard reports on the Abridged Index Medicus, on MEDLARS decentralization, and on the training programs under consideration by the Library.

Committee members for the next year are: Mr. Roy Kidman, Chairman; Mr. Alderson Fry (1 year); Mrs. Jane Fulcher (2 years); Mrs. Mary Fenlon Kaylor, New York City Dept. of Health Library (3 years); Mr. Elliott Morse, College of Physicians of Philadelphia Library (3 years); and Mrs. Mildred C. Langner, MLA President-Elect, with Mr. Brandon, ex officio.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Medical Library Association held its 64th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, May 30-June 3. Among the speakers were the following NLM staff members: Dr. David A. Kronick, Chief, Reference Services Division; Dr. Carl D. Douglass, Chief, Research and Training Division, Extramural Programs; and Miss Charlotte Kenton, Head, Search Unit, Bibliographic Services Division.

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the Library, presided at the session on "Local, Regional, and National Medical Library Cooperation," when Dr. Edward W. Dempsey, Special Assistant to the Secretary, DHEW, spoke on "Libraries and the Communication Crisis." Mr. Robert S. Cohen, NLM Exhibits Director, prepared an exhibit which featured a film on the Library and included sample copies of NLM publications and publications supported by the Publications and Translations Division of the Extramural Programs.

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director, presented the Marcia C. Noyes award to Miss Mildred Jordan, Librarian of the A. W. Calhoun Medical Library, Emory University, in absentia.

COMMITTEE ON SELECTION OF JOURNALS FOR INDEX MEDICUS

The Committee on Selection of Journals for Index Medicus met at the Library May 12-13. Members present were: William K. Beatty, Northwestern University; Alfred N. Brandon, Welch Medical Library; Thomas P. Fleming, Columbia University; Jess A. Martin, NIH Library; Stanley D. Truelson, Jr., University of Rochester;

and, for NLM, Louis Gerber, M.D., TSD; Constantine J. Gillespie, BSD; David A. Kronick, Ph.D., RSD; Peter D. Olch, M.D., OD; and Leonard Karel, Ph.D., BSD, Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Stephen Kim, TSD, attended during the discussion of Japanese journals.

A communication from David Bishop and Lois Zechnich of the Biomedical Library, UCLA, entitled "Comments on Scope & Coverage of Index Medicus, 1965," presented a number of significant questions. After some debate, the Committee recommended several changes in the List of Journals Indexed. The Committee's reply to Mr. Bishop and Mrs. Zechnich expressed appreciation for their cooperation.

The Committee discussed the list, compiled by Mr. Kim, of 242 Japanese journals worthy of indexing. It was agreed that the list be further evaluated by Miss Louise Darling, Biomedical Library, UCLA, and Mr. Fleming before specific action is recommended.

The Committee reviewed 57 Slavic journal titles recommended for indexing by Mr. Stanley Jablonski, BSD, with the concurrence of Dr. Robert Pollitzer, an authority in Slavic biomedical literature. It was recommended that 22 titles be indexed immediately, and the remaining 35 by January 1966, if possible.

The Committee prepared a recommendation to the Director on the need to establish specific criteria for selection of journals to be indexed, and to reevaluate these titles at intervals. The Director was advised to "(1) take steps to formalize and redefine previously informal criteria for selection, (2) undertake with suitable staff and other financial support a continuing project to gather such information as (a) opinions of experts from the area primarily served by a periodical as to its worth and standing, (b) policies of editorial screening, (c) calibre of editors and sponsors, etc., and (3) continue the review of titles by this or a similar committee, but thus based whenever possible on fuller information on each title and accomplished according to specific criteria."

AMA WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION PROBLEMS

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the Library, was among the representatives for the medical, government, medical library, and information science communities convened by the American Medical Association in May to discuss problems in the organization of library resources for the medical practitioner.

The meeting focused on medical society-sponsored libraries and the practicing physician. Dr. Cummings spoke on developments affecting the present medical library structure, and the concept of the information center. There was also a discussion of the Abridged Index Medicus, a specimen fasciculus of which was prepared by the Library in January 1965.

This meeting initiated a three-stage program sponsored by the American Medical Association. The second stage will involve a broad study of medical library use to provide planning data, and the third will reconvene the original participants to discuss the findings and make recommendations.

WORLD CONGRESS OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARIANS

The Third World Congress of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists will meet in Washington, D.C., October 3-9, 1965, at the National 4-H Club Center. Theme of the Congress will be "World-Wide Cooperation in Action: An International Network of Agricultural Libraries."

There will be a pre-Congress trainee program to offer a brief summary and review of the basic elements of agricultural librarianship and documentation.

The Congress first met in Ghent, Belgium, when the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists was organized. Its second meeting was convened in Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany, in 1960.

SUMMER HOURS

Service to readers at the National Library of Medicine in the evenings and on Sundays will be discontinued during the months of July and August. Beginning on Thursday, July 1, and ending Tuesday, September 7, the Library will be open to the public daily, Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed on the Federal holiday, Monday, July 5, and the National holiday, Monday, September 6.

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